



Chair's Message



Santa is back at the North Pole sipping eggnog in front of a roaring fire, the festivities are over for another year, and Shona and I are planning for a week of left-over turkey dinners. We

will also be counting our blessings and reminiscing about the fun we had with friends and family during the previous weeks. The wonderful evening that we spent with our daughters and granddaughters at the December dance will be part of those thoughts. What a super evening!

The dance floor was filled for every dance, with dancers leading down and "Up the Wall" in every set line, the children and youth "kicking up their heels," and the adults enjoying every minute of it. With evenings like this, filled with "The Spirit of the Dance," the future of Scottish Country Dancing looks positive to me.

The "Scottish Accent" played great music, and although I missed seeing our friend Bobby Brown's wee cheeky face, the band was wonderful. Thank you for being tolerant of the walk-throughs. I realise that for some this may be contentious; however, on this particular occasion I believe everyone's patience was rewarded. The policy regarding "walking" dances at monthly dances has been reviewed, and you will be hearing more about it soon.

On the subject of hearing from people, it would be a tremendous help to the Board and our committees if members would voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions in connection with the running of any Association events. Please use *Set & Link* to express your views. Would placing a "Suggestions Box" at events be preferable?

A happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you and yours.

Jan

Bobby Brown and *The Scottish Accent*: Thirty Years and Counting

Submitted by Deirdre Macdonald



Growing up in Scotland, Bobby Brown would sit in his school classroom, look out the window, and dream about music: listening to music, composing music, playing music. "All I ever wanted was to be in the music business."

Performer, Musical Director and Producer, Composer, Arranger, Recording Artist, Manager, Teacher, and Musicologist: Bobby Brown is a man of many talents, who has devoted his life to the field of traditional Scottish music.

Born July 13, 1941, he grew up in Dennyloanhead, Scotland. "My whole family was full of music." His father, John Brown, was a fiddler and manager of a thriving inn, The Crown. His mother, Jean Day, was a graduate of Edinburgh University and an accomplished pianist, professional soprano, and teacher.

Dennyloanhead was a tiny hamlet, but musicians driving north from Glasgow had to pass through the village. The Crown became a popular place to stop and when musicians stopped, there was music.

Bobby and his older sisters, Jean and Christine, all took piano lessons. He realized quickly, however, that formal music lessons weren't for him.

"My ear was my best friend and my worst enemy. I'd get my sisters to play a piece through several times, I'd listen, then I'd play the piece, but not always to the teacher's satisfaction. I can certainly read music, but my ear remains my best friend today."

At 9, he performed on a mouth organ, given to him by his father. He taught himself to play drums and soon substituted for the drummer with his uncle's Scottish band.

After coming to Canada at the age of 16, he discovered the accordion. As he was strolling along St. Clair Avenue, an accordion in a shop window caught his eye. It was love at first sight. In no time, he'd parted with the \$35 he'd saved for his holidays.

Bobby credits the years he spent as second accordionist with Stan Hamilton and *The Flying Scotsmen* (1961-1973) for transforming him into a professional musician. Until then, he was largely self-taught, but playing with Hamilton, a unique pianist, and with band member Bobby Frew, a first-class accordionist, taught him discipline and to aim for the highest standards.

Chuckling, Bobby says, "Miss Milligan never truly accepted accordions. They were accepted by the people though. When I first met her and told her I played accordion with Stan Hamilton's band, she muttered to me, 'I hate accordions'."

▶ Please see **Bobby** page 3

February Monthly Dance

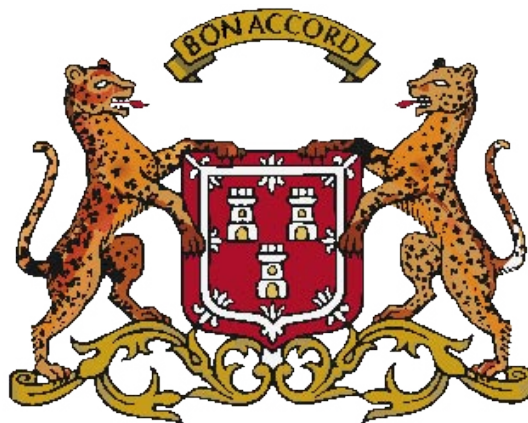
Date: Saturday, February 10, 2007
 Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.
 Place: Crescent School
 2365 Bayview Ave.
 Music: Bobby Brown and The Scottish Accent
 Hosts: Calvin • Bloorlea • Finlay Old Time Dancing
 Please note that Crescent School has a no-nut policy.

<i>Machine without Horses*</i>	8x32J	(23/11)
The Swiss Lassie	8x32R	(39/1)
The Deacon of the Weavers	8x32S	(25/4)
Miss Mary Douglas	8x48J	(10/11)
The Byron Strathspey	3x32	(Drewry)
Mrs. Stewart of Fasnacloich	8x32R	(Leaflet)
The Starry Eyed Lassie	8x32J	(23/11)
Mrs. MacLeod	8x32R	(6/11)
Lord Elgin's Reel	8x32S	(26/5)
Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder	1x128J	(Ham)
<i>The Bridge of Nairn*</i>	8x32S	(13/11)
Bratach Bana	8x32R	(Drewry)
The Lassies of Dunse	8x32J	(18/5)
The Music Will Tell You	4x32R	(41/6)

* ***Dances which are to be briefed only.***

What's in a name? *Bon Accord*

By now, there must indeed be a whole book of *Bon Accord* dances of one kind or another, each celebrating that fine city of Aberdeen, or one of its inhabitants. As many may know, Aberdeen's Coat of Arms, including a couple of rampant leopards and its original three castles, also depicts the city's proud motto: *Bon Accord*.



Legend has it that in the early 1300s, *Bon Accord* was the secret watchword for Robert the Bruce's forces to attack and massacre the local English military garrison, during the Wars of Independence at that time.

It is little wonder that some SCD dance devisers have entitled their efforts using this motto. Among them is *The Bonny Lass of...*, *The Blooms of...*, *The Belle of...*, and more recently, *John of...*

John of Bon Accord is named for Leicestershire-born John Drewry, who has been a proud Aberdonian for 40 years or more. With John having created so many outstanding dances, it was fitting that another Dance Master, Roy Goldring, should honour him in this way.

Submitted by Barry Pipes

Walking the Dances

As you will have noticed from the December Set and Link, we are trying something new at monthly dances. Except at the December and March dances and the AGM, one or two dances will be briefed only, not walked. You will be told which ones a month before so that there will be lots of time to prepare.

However, for the other dances on the program, all dancers should feel free to ask the first couple to walk the dance, or to come to the top and walk it themselves if they wish. Those in first place, please walk if requested, or allow another couple to do so.

Submitted by Ann Campbell

Tartan Ball Practices

This year the Board has arranged for the practices for the Tartan Ball to take place on Thursday, February 1 and Thursday, February 8 at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 DeLisle Avenue (one block north of St Clair, west off Yonge) from 8-10 p.m.

Glenview also welcomes dancers to attend Tartan Ball practices at their regular meetings on Wednesday, February 7 and 14 from 8-10 p.m. at Lawrence Park Community Church, 2180 Bayview Avenue.

Submitted by Ann Campbell

Scottish Websites:

www.glasgow.gov.uk

Glasgow is the premier city of Scotland for business but there is also much in the city, and the city's website, of interest to tourists or returning native Glaswegians.

Feeling homesick? Click on the two webcams overlooking George Square and have a peek at the ever-changing events as they happen.

Want to know what's on? Download the very colourful *Glasgow Diary* magazine – it's full of festival information and articles about the thriving arts and vibrant entertainment scene.

Planning a walking tour of medieval Glasgow? The maps you need are on this lively and informative website

Submitted by Rob Lockhart

Volunteer Nominations

Group Teachers are reminded that February 06, 2007 is the deadline for volunteer nomination submissions. For more information please contact Gordon S. Hamilton, Director at Large - Volunteers.

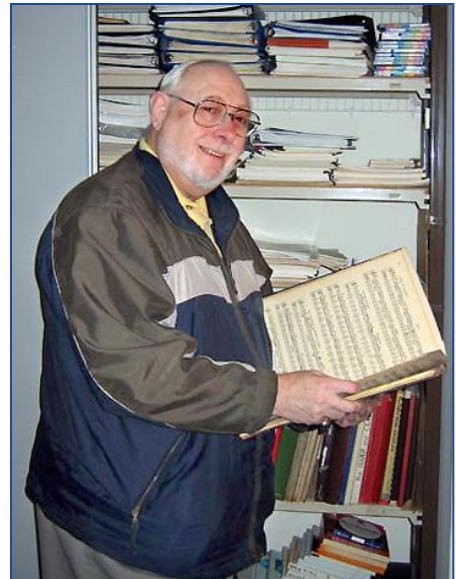
The Keppie Workshop: A Dancing Success

Toronto, Saturday, December 9, 2006, was sunny, cold, and dry, but Maggie Keppie, one of the teachers, spent Friday night snowed in at Halifax airport. Finally, 10 minutes before start time, Maggie, and Duncan Keppie who had flown in from Mexico on Friday night, arrived at Crescent School with hosts, Heinz and Margaret Rieger. The workshop would begin – much to the relief of the organizers!

What is unique about the Keppies is their interest in the traditions of Scottish Country Dancing, including the work of Miss Milligan and the influence of earlier dances and other dance traditions. Dancers at the intermediate/advanced level were taught old formations such as hand-in-hand reels, the Skye hold, and the split points setting step. Dancers at the beginners' level learned about the early tradition of dancers lining up lengthwise in one small room with a fire in the middle so that the steps performed were more important than much movement because of the cramped quarters. By teaching old steps and figures and writing new dances to include them, the Keppies enrich contemporary Scottish Country Dancing.

Thanks are due to the volunteer committee who made the workshop possible: Gordon Hamilton, Elizabeth Hannah, Morag MacIntosh, Margaret Rieger, and me. We had assistance from other willing workers: Steve Coombs, Senga Gray, John Kennedy, Betty Leeson, Sheila MacDonald, Heinz Rieger, and Jane Robinson. Thanks to teachers, dancers and volunteers alike, the workshop was a success.

Submitted by Jill Smith



Bobby's extensive collection of music and manuscripts includes The Skye Collection of Reels and Strathspeys, dated 1887.

► *Bobby continued from page 1*

In 1974, Bobby formed *The Cape Breton Symphony Fiddlers*, a group of four Nova Scotian musicians specializing in Cape Breton Scottish fiddle music and became their Music Director and Leader. He and the group debuted on *The John Allan Cameron Show* in 1974 and appeared weekly thereafter for the next six years.

"John Allan Cameron's show gave me the chance to leave my day job as a sales manager and become a full-time musician. It was a dream come true".

Today, Bobby Brown and the *The Scottish Accent*, formed in 1975, are widely acknowledged as the leading Scottish Country Dance Band in North America. Bobby says, "Playing with the group and for the dancers is a deep emotional experience." He continues, "I haven't made a ton of money, but I've worked with some great talent and made lifelong friendships. I couldn't be happier or luckier."



Calling All Cooks

We are attempting to put out a commemorative cookbook for the 50th anniversary. We've tasted your food, now let's have the recipes set down for posterity. Recipes can be of things you make for the monthly dance or that centre around RSCDS events - breakfast for out-of-town guests, BBQ after a highland games, Hogmanay dances, dinners before a dance, pubs after a class. Submit more than one recipe if you are a star in the kitchen. The submission deadline is Saturday, March 10, 2007. See the enclosed form and get started. For more info contact: Theresa Malek 416-535-4447, theresamalek@rogers.com

Winter Association Classes

All classes start at 7:30 p.m. and cost \$80 for 10 weeks. Enrolment is ongoing.

Eastminster United Church
310 Danforth Ave.,
2 minutes from Chester station
Levels 1 & 2: Start Thursday, January 11.

Swansea Town Hall
95 Lavinia Ave.,
7 min. walk from Runnymede station
Level 1: Starts Wednesday, January 10.
Level 3: Starts Thursday, January 25.

St. Leonard's Anglican Church
25 Wanless Ave.,
north of Yonge and Lawrence
Level 1: Starts Monday, January 8.

For information on all classes, contact Jane Robinson (for Carole Bell), 416-463-5016.

The Scottish Accent

Bobby Brown (first accordion)
Kathleen Fraser-Collins (piano)
Laird Brown (second accordion)
Rob Wolanski (acoustic guitar/bass)
Warren Beesley (drums/guitar/vocals)
Don Wood (piano/bass)
Fred Collins (drums)
Chris Reesor (drums)
Roger Moniz (bass)

Upcoming Events

NEAR

DECEMBER 31, 2006. **Erin Mills Hogmanay Ball**, Mississauga. Tickets \$69 each. Contact Keith R. Bark at barkk@rogers.com or 905-822-1707.

DECEMBER 31, 2006. **Glenview Hogmanay Dance and Ceilidh**, 8 p.m., Rosedale Presbyterian Church, 129 Mount Pleasant Rd., Dance followed by pot luck and ceilidh. Tickets, \$15. Contact Graeme Jones, 416-925-5126.

FEBRUARY 10, 2007. **South Simcoe Scottish Country Dancers' Valentine Workshop** at Knox Presbyterian Church, Alliston. Teacher is Maureen Richardson. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Classes from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$15 including lunch. Contact Grace Graham at robert.graham1@sympatico.ca

FEBRUARY 17, 2007. **44th Annual Tartan Ball** at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto. For tickets & table make-up contact Jim Stark, 416-691-8035.

MARCH 24, 2007. **West End Workshop** at Fletcher's Meadow Secondary School, 10750 Chinguacousy Road, Brampton. *Please note change in location.* Teachers: Janet Johnston, Edinburgh; Elizabeth McMahon, Lakefield; Steve Coombs, Burlington. Musicians: Bobby Brown, Laird Brown and Jim Darge. Music for tea dance: Bobby and Laird Brown. For more information contact Anna Rielly, 519-927-5502.

MAY 5, 2007. **The Festival of Dance.** An invitation to all Social Groups, Branch Classes and Demonstration Groups to showcase their favourite dance. St. Leonard's Anglican Church, 25 Wanless Ave. from 1-5 p.m. Contact the Special Events Committee via Linda Donald at linrudon@hotmail.com or 905-509-1849.

Stooges Needed

Stooges are needed every Sunday in January, February and March at Broadlands Community Centre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All levels of ability are needed. Come and develop your skills, help our teacher candidates and dance to the live music of Bobby Brown on accordion — all for the low cost of \$3 per class. What a deal!

Questions: call Jean Noble 416-449-8070.

FAR

JANUARY 27, 2007. **The 2007 Ardbrae Ball**, Glebe Community Centre, Ottawa, Ontario. Music by Bobby Brown & The Scottish Accent. Contact: Guy Quesnel, 106 Grange Ave., Ottawa ON, K1Y 0N9, 613-725-3031, e-mail: g.quesnel@sympatico.ca Website: www.flora.org/ardbrae

FEBRUARY 22-27, 2007. **Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's Winter School 2007**, Atholl Palace Hotel, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland. Contact Jill Henderson: jill.henderson@rscds.org

APRIL 27-MAY 1, 2007. **Budapest Scottish Country Dance Club's International Weekend Course.** Teacher: Eric Finley. Music: Andrew Lyon. Ball and dance evenings: David Cunningham and his band. Details and programs at www.bstk.hu/en or info@bstk.hu. Reserve online at the website. Additional programs for those who wish to stay longer in the country can be organized. Details at www.bstk.hu/en, "Touring Hungary".

JULY 22, 2007-AUG. 19, 2007. **RSCDS Summer School at St. Andrews, Scotland.** A range of scholarships is available. Scholarships must be supported by a nominee and supporter and a letter of recommendation from a Branch. Deadline for applications is **February 28, 2007.** Contact Brenda Hurst: brenhurst@hotmail.com or 416-925-6982 or visit www.rscds.org

JULY 25-29, 2007, **International Scottish Country Dance School**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. Contact Lydia Hedge 902-827-2033.

JULY 29-AUGUST 5, 2007. **T.A.C. Summer School 2007** Join us at Shawnigan Lake School just north of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Watch the T.A.C. website <http://tac-rscds.org> for additional details as they become available.



Remember...

- Monthly dance is February 10.
- Tartan Ball is February 17.
- West End Workshop is March 24.



www.rscdstoronto.org

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